

From: Tom Wilcox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:10pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to comment on the recent proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. For several reasons, I feel the current settlement is insufficient, and will in fact stifle competition further. However, the only aspect I will comment directly is on the non-disclosure of file formats by Microsoft. By not forcing Microsoft to disclose their file formats, the PFJ will maintain a very high barrier to entry into markets currently dominated by Microsoft. The reason is simple: people today exchange documents among computers every day, and if you don't have the MS applications, most likely you won't be able to read said documents. If the file formats are open, then any ISV can write an application to read and/or modify documents produced using MS software. This would, in effect, make competition based on the quality of software, independent of market dominance.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

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